

**Advisory & Advocacy Council Meeting
November 17, 2016
Multi-Purpose Facility
3-430 p.m.**

Present:	Susan Cycyk, Barbara Messick, Susan Burns, Dawn Decino, Bruce Kelsey, Paula Muller, Josh Thomas, Regina Johnson, Karen Zalewski, George Meldrum, Keith Zirkle, Liz Booth
Items for Discussion	Discussion
Start meeting	Meeting was called to order at 3 p.m. by Barb Messick, who opened up the meeting with greetings and thanks for coming. Introductions were made around the table.
Meeting Time Change Proposal	Due to many declined invitations to today's meeting and very poor attendance lately; it was suggested to go back to the previous meeting time of 1 p.m. Susan Burns suggested we send out a survey asking and then decide before 2017 meetings are scheduled.
Review of Minutes	Family Members were added to September's minutes. Minutes approved.
FY18 Budget	Presented by Howard Giddens <i>Please see attachment</i>
Community-Based Practices	Presented by Susan Burns <i>Please see attachment</i> Barbara Messick stated they currently have 11 active cases for Family Peer Support Services and are looking for referrals.
Medicaid State Plan	Susan Cycyk stated we are trying to figure out what everyone's wants and needs are, to be prepared to ask. We are working in a deficit, but still striving to get what our clients are asking for. One of the things we are questioning right now, is Residential; whether to make changes there first.
Collaboration with DOE Local School Districts	Susan Cycyk spoke about the Community Meetings have ended now. Positive feedback about new services. Some people came just to connect with services. Good turn out from the school districts. We will be doing this again this Fall. The busy schedule was very worthwhile. Day Treatment is heading towards closure in the near future. We have fewer children out of state and also in Residential than we ever have before. We have more of our children remaining in our community thanks to the great job of FCTs, BHCs, and other School staff. We have a total of 12 children with complex needs that we need to get back into their schools because they will be leaving Day Treatment; which resulted in DOE meeting with PBH to meet with the Director of Special Education in each county and each Charter School, also the Association of School Board Presidents; in addition to Carla Benson-Green and the Governor's office as well. We will do whatever it takes to get them back into their school, we are really committed to help each one of these children succeed. We have asked all of the schools to look at all of our services that we proved and asked the schools what are we missing?...what do you need?.... We have asked our providers...what else do you have? What more can we do together? They have agreed to look at evidence based programs as well. We are looking at offering trainings and would like to offer extra support in the schools to help with bringing the children back into their school. We are at the beginning, we have a lot of work ahead of us!
Collaborative work for children with ID/DD & MH	Susan Burns advised the group that DPBHS had applied for Transformation Transfer Initiative grant for \$220,000. Our application was focused on training for three targeted types of staff (clinicians, case managers and direct services) workers to develop capacity to work effectively with this dually diagnosed population. The three tiered training plan included a knowledge-based conference, a skills-building conference for the three staff tracks and a certification scholarship opportunity. It was a competitive grant with over 40 applicants and only 6 awards. We were just informed today that we did not receive the funding, but hope to have another opportunity to apply next year. A workgroup with representatives from various state agencies, advocacy groups and family peer representation met to begin work in identifying gaps in services and treatment for children and youth dually diagnosed with ID/DD and MH needs. Participants received an overview of services provided by DDDS, including plans for their lifespan waiver, and DPBHS. Moving forward, the work group will begin to put together recommendations for what is needed to best serve children in this population. If anyone is interested in joining the workgroup, please let Susan Burns know. Liz Booth asked.... if a child needs ADA, does DDDS take care of that? Yes.
Review of Crisis Bids	Barbara Messick stated there is a committee, had a first meeting last week, visit date will be 11/28/16. Will regroup on 12/5/16. Will be sending out an online survey on Survey Monkey to families' in the end of November. In December they will get all information together and send it to Susan Cycyk.

Strategic Plan	Handout was reviewed at meeting, in the process of updating our website then it will be available the beginning of January. All questions can be directed to Susan.Burns@state.de.us Reviewed, need to add to Goal 2: All children remain safe when receiving services. Budget request for \$600,000 to work with substance exposed infants, state has also asked for additional support due to increasing DFS cases.
Public Comments	"We need to support our families in sharing their voices. Very significant level of concern for advocacy and for voices to be heard. We represent a very tiny portion of the Medicaid Budget, our kids end up "invisible" at times, so it is up to us to speak up for our children and families! From my heart I hope that we not remain silent because they need to be heard!" ~Susan Cycyk
Next Meeting	2017 MEETINGS TBD

Minutes transcribed by: Dawn R. Decino, Administrative Specialist III

